



Habersham County Schools Reopening Plan 2020-2021

This document was developed in accordance with the Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health’s *Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools*. This document is intended to serve as guidance for Habersham County Schools; however, all Habersham County schools have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs.

	Closures	Response and Prevention
<i>Instructional Model</i>	<i>The Superintendent has established a COVID-19 Response Team. This response team will review relevant data and consult with the Georgia Department of Public Health in order to make recommendations regarding the closing of a specific school, schools or system.</i>	<i>Traditional Instruction</i>
	Learning from Home – <i>implement targeted Learning from Home for a particular school, schools or system as necessary</i>	Traditional Instruction – <i>school buildings open with implementation of more intensive mitigation strategies; enhanced social distancing</i>
<i>General Preventative Strategies</i>	School Buildings Closed – <i>School buildings will continue to be cleaned and sanitized.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parents are required to monitor the health of their child before sending them to school each day. Students should be free from any COVID-19 symptoms before being placed on a school bus or brought to school. In addition to parent monitoring, middle and high school students should self-monitor before attending school each day (See Is Your Child Well Enough to Attend School? at the end of this document.).</i> • <i>School staff will monitor students for COVID-19 symptoms.</i> • <i>School staff will teach and reinforce good hygiene practices.</i> • <i>Handwashing breaks will be instituted and hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the schools.</i> • <i>Students may bring water from home.</i> • <i>The use of face coverings is not mandated but is strongly recommended for students and staff, particularly in settings where social distancing is difficult to accomplish. The school will provide a face covering, but it is up to the parents to determine if a student wears it. The Department of Public Health has recommended face coverings for students and staff.</i> • <i>Provide additional outdoor recreational time for students.</i>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase social distancing practices in student areas where possible. • Custodial staff will focus on sanitizing high touch areas throughout the facility. • Additional cleaning and sanitizing procedures implemented.
Transportation	Bus Transportation not provided due to schools being closed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ventilation of busses • No field trips for 2020-2021 school year • Hand sanitizer provided on each bus • Busses cleaned after each route • Face coverings are strongly recommended for drivers and students when riding a bus. Bus drivers will be provided a face covering. • Spaced seating used where possible • Assigned seating on busses to assist with contact tracing if needed
School Buildings	School Buildings Closed <i>Deep cleaning and sanitizing performed during the closure</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors to buildings will be restricted – School administrators have final authority to determine admission to school buildings. • Parent meetings may be held virtually. • Limit large gatherings of students as much as possible.
Meals	School Buildings Closed <i>Serve drive-thru meals at 8 elementary schools for students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition workers will wear face coverings. • Standard operating procedures with preventative measures in place • Alternative serving models such as staggered lunch schedules, meals in classrooms, spaced seating will be implemented when possible.
Classrooms	School Buildings Closed – Learning from Home Plan in effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use increased social distancing practices in student areas when possible. • Maximize classroom space where possible. • Reduce number of contact surfaces in classrooms. • Utilize alternative learning spaces when and where possible.
Virtual Option		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent/guardian of a student with a serious health issue or who does not feel safe sending their child back to school may request a virtual learning option. Parents need to contact the child’s principal to discuss the virtual schooling option. Parents choosing the virtual option must talk with their child’s school principal between 9:00 a.m. July 20th and 12:00 p.m. July 29, 2020.
Specific School Closures		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent has established a COVID-19 Response Team. This response team will review relevant data and consult with the Georgia Department of Public Health in order to make recommendations regarding the closing of a specific school, schools or system. A school will not close for a single case. A school closure will be based on the level of spread in the community or in a specific school.



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Is your child well enough to attend school?

Parents should monitor the health of their child daily before attending school. Each morning, parents should check their child's temperature and answer the following questions of each child attending school.

1. Has your child experienced any of the symptoms below in the last 48 hours without the use of fever reducing medications?
 - Fever greater than 100.4° F? YES NO
 - Cough? YES NO
 - Chills? YES NO
 - Shortness of breath? YES NO
 - Muscle Aches? YES NO
 - Sore throat? YES NO
 - New loss of taste or smell? YES NO
2. Within the past 10 days has your child received a positive test result for COVID-19? YES NO
3. Is your child awaiting a test result for COVID-19? YES NO
4. Has your health provider recommended your child stay home for any reason? YES NO

If your child's temperature is less than 100.4° F **and** the answer is NO to all questions above, your child is cleared for school attendance.

If your child's temperature is greater than 100.4° F **or** the answer is YES to any of the above questions, please keep your child home from school and contact the school nurse.

When a Student Becomes Ill at School

If the student has symptoms that could be related to COVID-19 such as **fever greater than 100.4° F, cough, chills, shortness of breath, muscle aches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.**

- School staff will monitor the student in a designated location.
- Staff will provide the student with a face covering unless he/she is having difficulty breathing or has a chronic condition that prevents the use of face coverings.
- The parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the child from school.
- The parent or guardian may choose to seek medical advice from health care provider.
- The student must be symptom free for 48 hours before returning to school.



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School Response to student or staff member who is waiting on COVID-19 test results

- The student or staff member must self-isolate at home until test results are received.

School Response to a student or staff member who tests negative for COVID-19

- The student or staff member may return to school with documentation of negative test results provided. The individual must be symptom free for 48 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school.

School Response to a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19

When the school receives information regarding a positive case of COVID-19, the following process will be implemented.

- The student or staff member must self-isolate a minimum of 14 days from testing date. The individual must be symptom free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to school.

School Response to student or staff exposed to COVID-19

- Any Habersham County Schools student or staff member who lives with anyone who tests positive must self-isolate for 14 days from the testing date and be symptom free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication or provide documentation of negative test results before returning to school.
- Any student or staff member who may have been exposed in another setting and has been directed by a health care provider or agency to self-isolate must comply with those directives.



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NOTE: This re-opening plan does not and cannot address the specifics of every situation. Some details are included in our confidential school system safety plan. Some specifics are left to the school's discretion to deal with matters situationally. Each situation will be dealt with based on a number of factors including when the school finds out a student or staff member tested positive and when they were last at school. Our safety plan calls for a possible closure of a classroom or classrooms for deep cleaning if there is a positive case in a school. If there is a positive case in a school, parents and staff will be notified generally. We are unable to disclose confidential medical information like the person's name, position etc. The Principal will send out a One Call letting parents know that there was a positive case at the school and that the Georgia Department of Public Health is responsible for investigating the matter and for performing contact tracing. The school will attempt to contact parents if the school has been informed that a student or staff member in their child's classroom tested positive. If DPH believes a student came in close contact with an infected person they are responsible for determining who should self-isolate.

NOTE: Both the Habersham County School System and the Georgia Department of Public Health have a role to fulfill with regard to responding to a positive case of COVID-19. The Georgia Department of Public Health is responsible for contact tracing and for contacting those who may have had close contact with an infected person. The Department of Public Health will determine who came in close contact with an infected person and who must then self-isolate. The school system will only deal directly with students and staff we know have tested positive, are awaiting test results or who live with someone who has tested positive. All other situations will be investigated and handled by DPH. The Georgia Department of Public Health will notify the school system of a positive case. The school system will help DPH enforce DPH's instructions for a student, students or staff member to self-isolate.

NOTE: As of now, there will be no COVID-19 testing performed in our schools. The school system will rely on parents, health-care providers, and the Georgia Department of Public Health to notify us of confirmed positive cases.

NOTE: This reopening plan is a living document and is subject to change at any time. The school system will monitor daily the COVID-19 status of our community and will adjust to additional guidance from the Georgia Department of Education, The Georgia Department of Public Health or the Governor's Office.

***Additional guidance and information regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://dph.georgia.gov/> or contact the COVID-19 Hotline at (844) 442-2681.**